

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor Johann Sebastian Bach
Concerto in B Minor Johann Gottfried Walther
Allegro—Adagio—Allegro

Introit

“O, Bless the Lord, My Soul” Aaron Williams
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*O, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join and aid my tongue to bless
his name whose favors are divine.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Call to Worship

Leader: *God of the past has rescued us from the slavery of sin.*

People: **We are here to thank God for our salvation.**

Leader: *God of the future is tearing down the old world
and building God’s reign in our midst.*

People: **We are here because we trust God.**

Leader: *God of the present created us to be one people.*

People: **We are here together to praise God.**

Leader: *God surprises us when we find life within us.*

People: **We celebrate God’s grace.**

*Prayer of Praise

**Stand as you are able.*

*Hymn 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

You hold nothing back from us, generous God,
yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated.
You planted in us a hunger for you,
but we fill ourselves with that which does not satisfy.
You call us to share ourselves and our money with others,
yet we focus primarily on our own needs and desires.
You invite us to set aside our old ways to walk with you,
but unfamiliar paths stir anxiety in us.
Have mercy on us, Bread of Heaven, and bring us new life.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe this good news:*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 107:1–9, 43 Old Testament, page 528

Anthem

“Peace at the Last” Bradley Ellingboe
O Lord, support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and the work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.

First Lesson

Colossians 3:1–11 New Testament, page 190
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson

Luke 12:13–21 New Testament, page 70

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

It’s Never All about You Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 175 “Seek Ye First”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . From A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
 and binds us together with all believers
 in the one body of Christ, the church.
 The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,
 claims us in the waters of baptism,
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
 In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
 to pray without ceasing,
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
 to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

“Search Me, O God” Eric DeLamarter
Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thought, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me into the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

“O, Sing Jubilee to the Lord” Brad Holmes
O, sing jubilee to the Lord, every land. Glory be to God! O, serve him with gladness, as in his halls we stand; sing praises to God out of Zion! He made us his own; he has given us breath. Glory be to God! The sheep of his pasture, we need not fear our death; sing praises to God out of Zion! His mercy is ours; he is Lord over all. Glory be to God! May all generations find power in his call; sing praises to God out of Zion! O come one and all with thanksgiving and praise. Glory be to God! Give glory to him, and your brightest banners raise; sing praises to God out of Zion!

***Presentation of the Offering and Response**

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, we offer you ourselves in response to your life-giving call. All that we have and all that we are belong to you. May our lives and our gifts bring you glory and further your purposes. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 450 “Be Thou My Vision”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Toccata in D Minor Max Reger

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather together in praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Larry Thomas, Nanette Sawyer, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Men's Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Maggie Lewis on behalf of the Officer Nominating Committee.

THE MEN'S CHOIR is providing musical leadership during worship through September 4. The Men's Choir consists of men from the three adult choirs at Fourth Church: the Chancel Choir, Morning Choir, and Choral Society.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. Each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer is held in Buchanan Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need. We also offer a monthly fourth-Friday prayer service in the style of Taizé, which meets next month on August 26 at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo—which pairs a cross with the complex interwoven evocation of a heart—depicts the large hanging sculpture in Buchanan Chapel as photographed from Chestnut Street at night.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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Matt Helms Associate Pastor

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Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

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Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Layton Williams Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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